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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/749,594	12/31/2003	Richard J. Roberts	CMJ-112-A	8529.

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EXAMINER

BALSIS, SHAY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1744

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/749,594

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS, RICHARD J.

Examiner

Shay L Balsis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 22 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 22 is currently dependent from claim 20, however Examiner believes this is incorrect and should be dependent from claim 21. Therefore, claim 22 is being examined as if it should depend from claim 21. If this is an incorrect assumption, Examiner will withdraw the claim objection however, lack of antecedent basis must then be corrected to correspond with claim 20.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

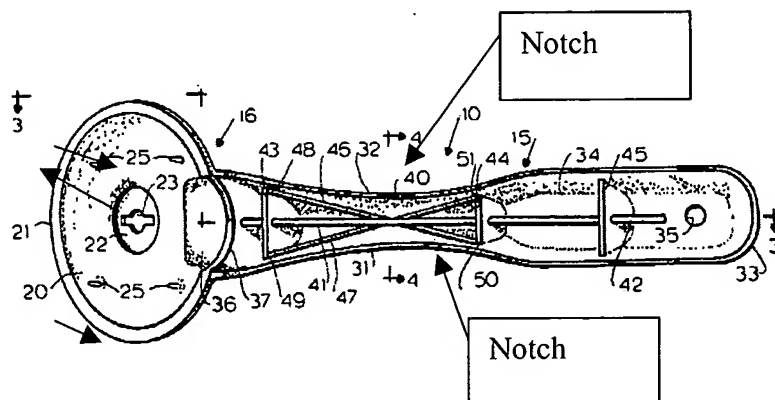
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 7-11, 16-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Silver (USPN 4244075).

Silver teaches an apparatus comprising a single, unitary planar body with a first enlarged end (15), an elongated middle portion (10) and a second enlarged end (16). There are at least two hand-grip portions (31, 33) formed on the body, wherein one hand-grip portion (33) is formed along an outer peripheral edge of the body. There are a plurality of ribs (41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47) integrally formed on the body for stiffening the body. The ribs are located along the outer peripheral edges of the body and extend transversely along the body between peripheral edges. The ribs extend transversely across a surface of the middle portion from a notch formed

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along one side to another notch formed along an opposite side in a zig-zag pattern. The notches are formed in opposite sides of the middle portion spaced longitudinally from one another along the longitudinal length of the middle portion of the body and extending inwardly toward one another. See figure below. The body is formed from injection molding.

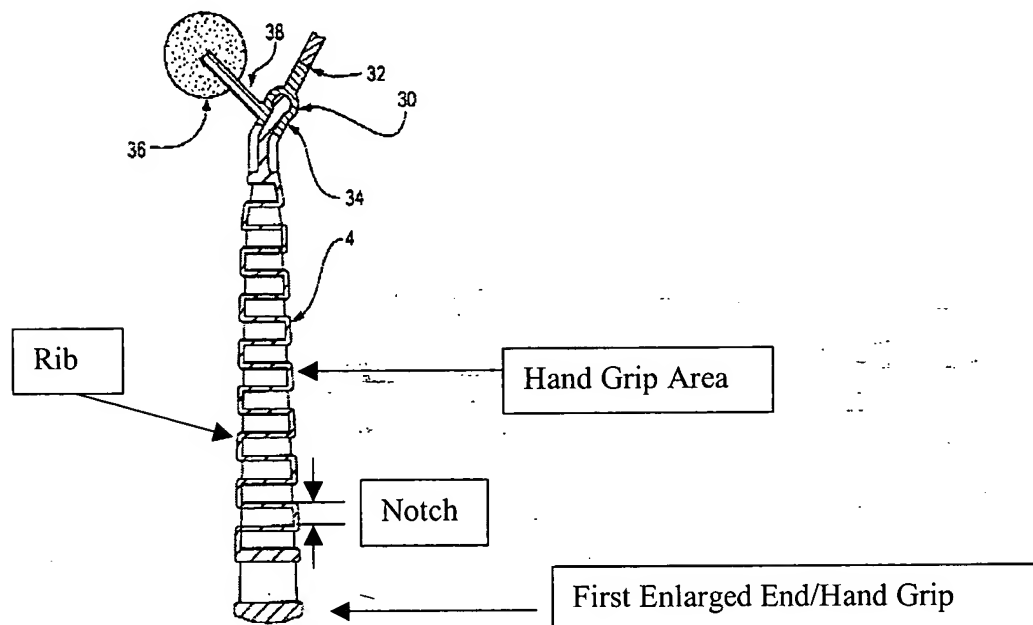


Claims 1, 6-11, 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gringer (USPN 5809605).

Gringer teaches an apparatus comprising a single, unitary planar body with a first enlarged end (see figure below), an elongated middle portion (4) and a second enlarged end (2). There are at least two hand-grip portions (see figure below) formed on the body, wherein one hand-grip portion (see figure below) is formed along an outer peripheral edge of the body. There is a squeegee (32) formed on second enlarged end. There are a plurality of ribs (see figure below) integrally formed on the body for stiffening the body. The ribs are located along the outer peripheral edges of the body and extend transversely along the body between peripheral edges. The ribs extend transversely across a surface of the middle portion from a notch formed along one side to another notch formed along an opposite side in a zig-zag pattern. The notches are formed in opposite sides of the middle portion spaced longitudinally from one another along

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the longitudinal length of the middle portion of the body and extending inwardly toward one another. See figure below. The body is formed from injection molding.



Claims 1-3, 5-6, 11-13, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon (USPN 1790466).

Gordon teaches an apparatus comprising a single, unitary planar body with a first enlarged end (2), an elongated middle portion (1) and a second enlarged end (5). There are at least two hand-grip portions (2, 5; one end of the apparatus could be held while operating the other end of the apparatus and vice versa or the middle portion could be considered a hand-grip) formed on the body, wherein one hand-grip portion is formed along an outer peripheral edge of the body. There is a replaceable soft material cleaning mitt (4) engageable on the first enlarged end. There is a means for gripping the mitt and attaching it to the first end. There is a squeegee (6) formed on second enlarged end.

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Claims 1-3, 5, 10-13, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hendricks (USPN 6601264).

Hendricks teaches an apparatus comprising a single, unitary planar body with a first enlarged end (22), an elongated middle portion (12) and a second enlarged end (16). There are at least two hand-grip portions (24, 21) formed on the body, wherein one hand-grip portion (24) is formed along an outer peripheral edge of the body. There is a replaceable soft material cleaning mitt (14) engageable on the first enlarged end. There is a means for gripping the mitt and attaching it to the first end. The apparatus is formed from injection molding.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 11-13, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loveland (USPN 2649600).

Loveland teaches an apparatus comprising a single, unitary planar body with a first enlarged end (14), an elongated middle portion (10) and a second enlarged end (18). There are at least two hand-grip portions (one end of the apparatus could be held while operating the other end of the apparatus and vice versa or the middle portion could be considered a hand-grip) formed on the body, wherein one hand-grip portion is formed along an outer peripheral edge of the body. There is a replaceable soft material cleaning mitt (15) engageable on the first enlarged end. There is a squeegee portion (17) formed on the second enlarged end. There is a means for gripping the mitt and attaching it to the first end. The apparatus is formed from injection molding.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Janssen (USPN 4856136).

Hendricks teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however fails to teach that the means for gripping the soft cover includes hooks. Janssen teaches a handle with an enlarged end. A sponge fits of the enlarged end and is secured by hooks (24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to use hooks on the enlarged end of Hendricks' invention so that the sponge is properly secured to the end and will not move or fall off during use.

Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Janssen (USPN 4856136).

Gordon teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however fails to teach that the means for gripping the soft cover includes hooks. Janssen teaches a handle with an enlarged end. A sponge fits of the enlarged end and is secured by hooks (24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to use hooks on the enlarged end of Gordon's invention so that the sponge is properly secured to the end and will not move or fall off during use.

Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loveland in view of Janssen (USPN 4856136).

Loveland teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however fails to teach that the means for gripping the soft cover includes hooks. Janssen teaches a handle with an enlarged end. A sponge fits of the enlarged end and is secured by hooks (24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to use hooks on the enlarged end of Loveland's invention so that the sponge is properly secured to the end and will not move or fall off during use.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loveland in view of Janssen (USPN 4856136) and further in view of Silver (USPN 4244075).

Loveland teaches an apparatus comprising a single, unitary planar body with a first enlarged end (14), an elongated middle portion (10) and a second enlarged end (18). There are at least two hand-grip portions (one end of the apparatus could be held while operating the other end of the apparatus and vice versa or the middle portion could be considered a hand-grip) formed on the body, wherein one hand-grip portion is formed along an outer peripheral edge of the body. There is a replaceable soft material cleaning mitt (15) engageable on the first enlarged end. There is a squeegee portion (17) formed on the second enlarged end. There is a means for gripping the mitt and attaching it to the first end.

Loveland teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however fails to teach that the means for gripping the soft cover includes hooks. Additionally, Loveland fails to teach a plurality of ribs formed on the body. Also Loveland fails to teach that the apparatus is formed by injection molding.

Janssen teaches a handle with an enlarged end. A sponge fits of the enlarged end and is secured by hooks (24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to use hooks on the enlarged end of Loveland's invention so that the sponge is properly secured to the end and will not move or fall off during use.

Silver teaches an apparatus comprising a plurality of ribs (41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47) integrally formed on the body for stiffening the body. The ribs are located along the outer peripheral edges of the body and extend transversely along the body between peripheral edges. The ribs extend transversely across a surface of the middle portion from a notch formed along one side to another notch formed along an opposite side in a zig-zag pattern. The notches are formed in opposite sides of the middle portion spaced longitudinally from one another along the longitudinal length of the middle portion of the body and extending inwardly toward one another. The handle and the ribs are made from an injection molded material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the ribs as taught by Silver on Loveland's invention so as to eliminate unnecessary bending of the handle while in use. Bending of the handle could lead to small stress fractures that after time could cause the handle to break. The ribs would help to strengthen the handle, increasing the lifetime of the apparatus.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Janssen (USPN 4856136) and further in view of Silver (USPN 4244075).

Gordon teaches an apparatus comprising a single, unitary planar body with a first enlarged end (2), an elongated middle portion (1) and a second enlarged end (5). There are at least two hand-grip portions (2, 5, one end of the apparatus could be held while operating the

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other end of the apparatus and vice versa or the middle portion could be considered a hand-grip) formed on the body, wherein one hand-grip portion is formed along an outer peripheral edge of the body. There is a replaceable soft material cleaning mitt (4) engageable on the first enlarged end. There is a means for gripping the mitt and attaching it to the first end. There is a squeegee (6) formed on second enlarged end.

Gordon teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however fails to teach that the means for gripping the soft cover includes hooks. Additionally, Gordon fails to teach a plurality of ribs formed on the body.

Janssen teaches a handle with an enlarged end. A sponge fits of the enlarged end and is secured by hooks (24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to use hooks on the enlarged end of Gordon's invention so that the sponge is properly secured to the end and will not move or fall off during use.

Silver teaches an apparatus comprising a plurality of ribs (41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47) integrally formed on the body for stiffening the body. The ribs are located along the outer peripheral edges of the body and extend transversely along the body between peripheral edges. The ribs extend transversely across a surface of the middle portion from a notch formed along one side to another notch formed along an opposite side in a zig-zag pattern. The notches are formed in opposite sides of the middle portion spaced longitudinally from one another along the longitudinal length of the middle portion of the body and extending inwardly toward one another. The handle and ribs are made from an injection molded material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the ribs as taught by Silver on Gordon's invention so as to eliminate unnecessary bending of the handle

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while in use. Bending of the handle could lead to small stress fractures that after time could cause the handle to break. The ribs would help to strengthen the handle, increasing the lifetime of the apparatus.

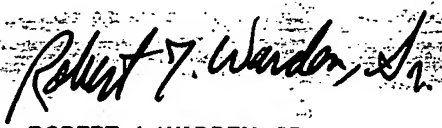
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shay L Balsis whose telephone number is 571-272-1268. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 M-Th, alternating F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J. Warden can be reached on 571-272-1281. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Slb
1/14/05


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